

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU2003/001626

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. 7: A61F 7/00, 7/02, 7/03, 7/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
WPAT, A61F 7/00, 7/02, 7/03, 7/08, A47G 9/00, 9/02 A01K 13/00, 29/00 key words BLANKET+, SHEET+, HEAT+, WARM+, HYPOTHERM+

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5304213 A (BERKE et al.) 19 April 1994 Whole document	1-5
X	US 5928274 A (AUGUSTINE) 27 July 1999 Whole document	1-5
A	DE 20202811 U (AHRENS TEXTIL SERVICE GMBH) 8 May 2002 Whole document	1-5

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:		
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search
16 March 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

19 MAR 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

Continuation of Box No: II

Item (I) continued

The International application does not comply with requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Search Authority has found that there are three inventions:

1. Claims 1-4 are directed to a patient-warming blanket comprising at least two layers capable of forming an air space between them. It is considered that warm air delivered to the air space may escape via the porous material of the surface of one of the layer comprises a first "special technical feature".
2. Claim 5 is directed to a patient-warming blanket comprising at least two layers capable of forming an air space between them. It is considered that the two layers and air space being arranged in operation to form a substantially tubular arrangement at least partially surrounding a patient receiving space comprises a second "special technical feature".
3. Claims 6-10 is directed to a heating unit for a patient warming system. It is considered that a feedback means for determining whether a patient-warming blanket is attached and responsive to a determination that the patient warming blanket is not attached, to disable delivery of warmed air via the port comprises a third "special technical feature".

Since these groups of claims do not share any of the special technical features identified, a technical relationship between the inventions does not exist. Accordingly the claims do not relate to one invention or to a single inventive concept.

First and second invention could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, but search of third invention will require more than a little additional search effort over that for the first & second invention, hence an additional search fee is warranted.

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This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report			Patent Family Member	
US 5304213			NONE	
DE 20202811			DE 10207793	
US 5928274	US 5350417		US 5658325	
END OF ANNEX				

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos :

because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos :

because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos :

because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims 1-5 A patient warming blanket
2. Claims 6-10 A heating unit for a patient warming system

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:1-5

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.